



STATE OF INDIANA
INDIANA STATE EXCISE POLICE

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For Immediate Release

Excise Officers Arrest Bloomington Business Owner on Drug and Alcohol Charges

Bloomington, Ind. (February 26th) – Indiana State Excise Police officers executed a warrant Tuesday morning that lead to the arrest of a Bloomington business owner.

Liling Jia, 60, owner of Obo's Oriental Grocery Store located at 2556 East 3rd Street, was booked into the Monroe County Jail as the result of a warrant that was issued for her arrest. She is preliminarily charged with Unlawful Sale of a Legend Drug, Maintaining a Common Nuisance for Legend Drug, Maintaining a Common Nuisance: Alcohol, Sale of Alcoholic Beverage without a Permit, Sale of Untaxed Alcoholic Beverages, Sale of Cigarettes without an Indiana Tax Stamp, and Sale of Contraband Cigarettes.

Indiana State Excise Police Officers began their investigation of Obo's Oriental Grocery Store in January as the result of an anonymous complaint. A search warrant was conducted at the premise on February 4th that lead to the seizure of various brands of untaxed Chinese liquor, untaxed and contraband foreign cigarettes, and various prescription medications that were manufactured in China.

Although the premise does possess a Tobacco Certificate, it does not possess an Alcoholic Beverage Permit and is not licensed to sell prescription medications.

Indiana State Excise Police Superintendent Matt Strittmatter stated, "The illegal sale of alcoholic beverages, especially those that are not manufactured in this country, pose a significant risk to the health and well-being of Indiana citizens. It also makes their accessibility to minors more prevalent."

Superintendent Strittmatter added, "The sale of illicit prescription medications is equally dangerous due to potential adverse reactions. Indiana State Excise Police officers will continue to investigate crimes such as this in order to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of all Indiana citizens, especially our youth."

As the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission, the primary mission of the Indiana State Excise Police is to promote public safety by enforcing Indiana's Alcoholic Beverage Code. While excise officers have the authority to enforce any state law, they focus primarily on alcohol, tobacco and related laws.

All criminal defendants are to be presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.